

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 048257
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:S. STEINER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 048257

NODIS

FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING TAIPEI 1197 SENT ACTIONSECSTATE MAR 4; REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T TAIPEI 1197

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, CH

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS WITH GROC ON US CHINA POLICY

REF: STATE 034897

1. PRIVATE LUNCHEON WITH MINISTER-WITHOUT-PORTFOLIO CHOU SHU-K'AI
MARCH 3 PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY TO REPEAT POINTS MADE BY UNDER
SECRETARY HABIB TO AMBASSADOR SHEN REFTEL. IN CONVERSATION THAT
ENSUED MINISTER CHOU RECALLED EVENTS OF AUTUMN 1971 WHEN THE REPUBLIC
OF CHINA WAS EXPELLED FROM THE UN AND THE SUBSEQUENT ISSUANCE OF
THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE IN EARLY '72. THERE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE
BITTERNESS IN THE ROC OVER THE FEELING THAT THE US IN EFFECT

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SWITCHED ITS POSITION WITHOUT WARNING, LEAVING THE ROC OUT ON
A LIMB. CSK HOWEVER SAID HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN ENGAGING IN
RECRIMINATIONS ON THAT SCORE BUT RATHER TO EMPHASIZE HOW IMPORTANT
IT WOULD BE, ONCE WE HAVE MADE UP OUR MIND TO TAKE AN IMPORTANT
STEP (NORMALIZATION OBVIOUSLY INTENDED, ALTHOUGH NOT SPECIFICALLY
MENTIONED) THAT WE CONSULT WITH THE ROC AND WORK THE PROBLEM
OUT TOGETHER TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO COME THROUGH ANY

CHANGE WITH THE LEAST DAMAGE DONE. ON OTHER WORDS, RATHER THAN
HAVING THEM READ IT IN THE NEWSPAPER, HE SAID, "TELL US AND LET
US PREPARE, IF IT IS INEVITABLE."

2. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD HIS POINT AND THAT I BELIEVED THAT THIS
WAS OUR INTENTION EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO COMMIT
OURSELVES AS TO THE POINT AT WHICH IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO
HAVE SUCH DISCUSSIONS, AND I RECALLED HABIB'S RECOGNITION OF
THE NEED FOR APPROPRIATE DISCUSSIONS ON MATTERS AFFECTING
RELATIONS IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR SHEN. AT THE
SAME TIME I SPECULATED PERSONALLY THAT WASHINGTON WOULD HAVE
MISGIVINGS ABOUT ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT NORMALIZATION IF THERE
WAS ANY CHANCE THAT THIS WOULD RESULT IN AN EFFORT BEING MOUNTED
TO RALLY OPPOSITION TO THE INTENDED ACTION. UNGER UNQUOTE
VANCE

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